



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monadnock Peer Support Observes Juneteenth Holiday

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[KEENE, NH] The Monadnock Peer Support Board of Directors voted to add Juneteenth to its list of observed holidays. This year Juneteenth is observed on Friday, June 19th.

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, is celebrated to commemorate the end of slavery. On June 19th, 1865 Major General Gordon Granger arrived at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the slaves were now free. The murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and countless others, has led to widespread community action around the country. This year, Juneteenth is expected to be a day of action in many communities to combat issues of racial injustice.

Peter Starkey, Executive Director, made the following statement regarding the decision, “MPS has always been an organization deeply rooted in advocacy, social justice, and honoring our civic duty. Given recent tragedies around the country, it is our obligation to be bold change makers in combating systemic racism at all levels.” He went on to say that, “Observing Juneteenth, as an official holiday for the agency, ensures that members and staff can reflect, acknowledge, and plan action for ways to combat systemic racism.”

MPS calls on its friends and partners in the nonprofit and business community to observe this holiday for their staff and clients. MPS also encourages our elected leaders to recognize this important day of reflection and action.

MPS is a regional mental health nonprofit that offers wellness support groups, one-on-one peer support, and advocacy opportunities for individuals with lived experience in mental health. MPS has a long and dedicated history in social justice and policy reform at local and state levels supporting members and participants in being activity engaged citizens. MPS is one of 8 regional peer support agencies that serve the entire State of NH.

For questions, please reach out to Peter Starkey, Executive Director, at pstarkey@monadnockpsa.org.

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